

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending and have all been rejected. Independent claim 1 is amended herein. It is to be appreciated that while reference may be made back to certain parts of the application in this Reply (e.g., page numbers, line numbers, Figs., etc.), that such referencing is not to be interpreted in a limiting manner (e.g., to limit the scope of the claims and/or features therein to the particular portion(s) referenced), but is instead merely done for purposes of explanation, illustration and/or ease of understanding. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art in view of Sawai et al. (US 5,590,412). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, provides that the circuit has a joint amplification stage that is common to both the transmit and receive amplification devices. Moreover, this joint amplification stage is configured such that it has a terminal that serves as an input in a first operating state of the circuit and as an output in a second operating state of the circuit.

It is respectfully submitted that Sawai et al. do not teach this feature. For example, the terminals of amplifiers 23, 24 in Sawai et al. (or rather the function of said terminals) do not change depending on the mode or operating state of the apparatus. That is, regardless of whether the apparatus is transmitting or receiving signals, the signals always traverse the same path 42=>23=>24=>43 such that the same terminals of amplifiers 23, 24 serve as inputs or outputs, respectively (Fig. 4; Col. 6, lines 26-61). More particularly, in a receive mode, a signal traverses the following path: antenna 1, switch 4c to 4b, BPF 42, amplifier 23, amplifier 24, BPF 43, switch 6a to 6c, mixer 10 (for down-conversion) and switch 7c to 7b. Similarly, in a transmit mode, a signal

traverses the following path: switch 6b to 6c, mixer 10 (for up-conversion), switch 7c to 7a, BPF 42, amplifier 23, amplifier 24, BPF 43, switch 4a to 4c and antenna 1 (Fig. 4; Col. 6, lines 26-61).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Sawai et al. do not anticipate independent claim 1, as amended, because Sawai et al. do not teach a joint amplification stage that has a terminal whose function changes depending on the mode of operation of the device. More particularly, because Sawai et al. teach an apparatus having amplifiers 23, 24 whose terminals always function as inputs or outputs regardless of whether the apparatus is transmitting or receiving signals, Sawai et al. fail to teach a joint amplification stage having a terminal that serves as an input when signals are transmitted/received and as an output when signals are received/transmitted. It is thus respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Sawai et al. (and applicant's admitted prior art which does not make up for the deficiencies of Sawai et al.). The claims remaining in the case depend from independent claim 1 and are thus also believed to be allowable over Sawai et al. (and applicant's admitted prior art). Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 1-16 is therefore respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, EHFP137US.

Respectfully submitted,
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